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Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

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TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY
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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PN
SUBJECT: USG-GOP EFFORTS TO ASSURE PROPITIOUS CLIMATE
FOR TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

1. COUNTRY DIRECTOR TOOK OCCASION OF AUGUST 2 CONVERSATION TO COMMENT TO AMBASSADOR GONZALEZ REVILLA THAT IT WOULD SEEM ADVISABLE FOR BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO DO WHAT THEY CAN TO ASSURE THAT THE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE NEXT NEGOTIATING PHASE IS AS PROPITIOUS AS POSSIBLE.

2. FOR USG'S PART, IT HAS BEEN GRATIFIED AT (A) THE MORE MODERATE TEMPER OF THE PANAMANIAN MEDIA WITH RESPECT TO THE U.S. AND NEGOTIATIONS, (B) THE ABSENCE OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF A PROVOCATIVE NATURE BY GOP OFFICIALS, AND (C) THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S ASSURANCE TO THE SECRETARY IN BUENOS AIRES, WHEN INVITING THE U.S. TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS, THAT THEY CAN BE CONDUCTED
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"DISCREETLY" AND "IN PRIVATE". USG HAS ALSO WELCOMED

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AMBASSADOR'S EFFORTS TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH OPERATIONS
AND PROBLEMS IN THE CANAL ZONE, AND HIS EFFORTS TO
TRY TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN USG AND GOP

AUTHORITIES WHEREBY PANAMA CAN INCREASINGLY BENEFIT
FROM ZONE FACILITIES AND PARTICIPATE IN ZONE
ACTIVITIES.

3. PANAMA, FOR ITS PART, WILL HAVE RECOGNIZED THAT
CANAL ZONE AUTHORITIES HAVE WELCOMED GONZALEZ REVILLA'S
OVERTURES AND ATTEMPTED WITHIN THE LEGAL CONSTRAINTS
ON THEM TO BE HELPFUL IN HIS EFFORTS. PANAMA WILL
ALSO HAVE RECOGNIZED THAT USG, RATHER THAN REACTING FOR-
MALLY TO FOREIGN MINISTER'S SHARPLY WORDED NOTE ON
SQUATTERS, IS SEEKING QUIETLY TO WORK OUT A RESOLUTION
OF THE PROBLEM. SIMILARLY, USG HAS NOT REACTED IN
RIGIDLY LEGALISTIC FASHION TO COLON PROPERTY PROBLEM
BUT RATHER IS TRYING IN THIS CASE ALSO TO WORK OUT A
QUIET RESOLUTION. FINALLY AND MOST IMPORTANTLY PANAMA
WILL HAVE RECOGNIZED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PRESIDENT'S
PUBLICLY-EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR A "FRESH LOOK", ON
BOTH SIDES, AT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US.

4. USG WILL CONTINUE TO BEAR IN MIND THE DESIRABILITY
OF A PROPITIOUS NEGOTIATING CLIMATE AND HOPES GOP
WILL BE SO INCLINED, COUNTRY DIRECTOR CONCLUDED.

5. AMBASSADOR SAID HE AGREED AND WOULD CONVEY THESE
COMMENTS IMMEDIATELY TO FOREIGN MINISTER "AND OTHERS",
ADDING THAT "PANAMA WANTS THESE NEW NEGOTIATIONS TO
SUCCEED MORE THAN US DOES". ROGERS

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